

BIG ISLAND BRIDGE
21.5 mi. NW. of Green River
County Road No. 4
Sweetwater County
Wyoming

HAER NO. WY-⁷⁹0788

HAER
WYO,
19-GRERIV,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Big Island Bridge

HAER No. WY-~~17-22~~⁷⁹

Location: Spanning the Green River, on County Road No. 4;
21.5 miles northwest of the town of Green River,
in Sweetwater County, Wyoming

UTM: 12.605175.4624190
Quad: Big Island Bridge

Date of Construction: 1909-1910

Builder/Designer: Charles G. Sheely

Present Owner; Sweetwater County
P. O. Box 730
Green River, Wyoming 82935

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: Called the Big Island Bridge for the region it opened,
this two span Pratt through truss features the longest
simple spans for its type in the State. It is also
one of the oldest existing trusses in the State, and
one of the most significant of the early county-built
vehicular bridges.

Historians: Clayton B. Fraser and Richard G. Ewig
November 1981

~~NOTE: For more general information, see Wyoming Truss Bridges Survey,
HAER No. WY-17.~~

I. HISTORY

In October 1909, Charles G. Sheely was awarded the contract for this bridge over the Green River and for another over the Little Sandy River about fifty miles north of Rock Springs.¹ Mr. Sheely later became president of the Colorado Bridge and Construction Company.

II. DESCRIPTION

The Big Island Bridge is a two span Pratt through truss featuring the longest span of its type in the State. The structure is 310 feet long with a 12-foot, 5-inch roadway.

It is supported on concrete and steel full retaining abutments and has a steel and timber deck. Top chords are two channels with cover plate and lacing; bottom chords are two rectangular eyebars; verticals are two channels with lacing; diagonals are two rectangular eyebars. The structure has angle portal bracing and struts, round bar sway bracing and laced guardrails.²

¹ Sweetwater County Commissioners' Minutes, September 17, 1909, and October 5, 1909.

² Historical Bridge Survey and Inventory Form. Wyoming State Highway Department.